

REMARKS

Claims 1-66 are cancelled; and new claims 67-84 are added and pending in the application.

The previously pending claims were rejected over Gambino, either alone or in combination with McCollum, Lowrey, Wu and Cleeves, in various combinations.

New claims 67-84 are believed allowable over the various references previously cited against the claims of this application. As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the new claims are supported by the originally-filed application at Figs. 6 and 11, and the text of the specification describing such figures. The new claims therefore do not comprise "new matter".

Referring initially to claim 67, such recites a semiconductor assembly comprising a pair of conductively-doped diffusion regions having outermost lateral peripheries, recites an insulating material over such diffusion regions having openings with outermost lateral peripheries co-extensive with the outermost lateral peripheries of the diffusion regions, recites dielectric material within the openings in the form of liners which are at the outermost lateral peripheries of the diffusion regions, recites conductive plugs within the openings, and recites that one of the openings is incorporated into an anti-fuse construction while the other of the openings has the conductive plug extending through one of the liners to be in direct physical contact with one of the diffusion regions.

The subject matter of claim 67 is supported by Fig. 6 of the application, in which liners (40) of dielectric material are shown at outermost lateral peripheries of conductively-

doped diffusion regions (22 and 28), and wherein the other recited features of claim 67 are also exemplified.

New claim 67 is allowable over the cited references for at least the reason that the references do not show or suggest the claim 67 recited dielectric material liners at outermost lateral peripheries of conductively-doped diffusion regions. The Examiner cites Gambino for disclosing dielectric material 322 analogous to the dielectric material 40 shown in claim 6. Applicant notes, however, that the dielectric material liners formed from material 322 of Gambino are not at outermost lateral peripheries of the conductive nodes underlying the liners (nodes 310 and 315). Applicant further notes that the Examiner's other cited references also do not suggest or disclose the claim 67 recited feature of dielectric material liners at outermost lateral peripheries of conductively-doped diffusion regions, or other conductive nodes. Accordingly, such subject matter of new claim 67 is not shown or suggested by the cited references, and for at least this reason new claim 67 is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 68-77 depend from claim 67, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 67, as well as for their own recited features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited references. Of particular note is that claim 68 recites various aspects of the semiconductor assembly of Fig. 6 in which an insulative material (30) has a planar uppermost surface, the first and second liners have planar uppermost surfaces coplanar with the planar uppermost surface of the insulative material, and the first and second conductive plugs have planar uppermost surfaces coplanar with the planar uppermost surface of the insulative material. Such recited

features are not shown or suggested by the Examiner's cited references, and for this additional reason, claim 68 is allowable over the Examiner's cited references.

Referring next to claim 78, such claim recites subject matter supported by Fig. 11 of Applicant's disclosure, and specifically recites an assembly in which an insulative material ((112) of Fig. 10, for example), has a planar uppermost surface, and a recited second liner (for example, the liner formed of dielectric material 116 within fragment 104 of Fig 11) having a planar uppermost surface coplanar with the uppermost surface of the insulative material. Such aspect is not shown or suggested by the Examiner's cited references. Applicant notes that Gambino shows insulative material (307) having a planar uppermost surface, and shows a liner 322 associated with an anti-fuse coplanar with such uppermost surface, but does not show the other liners 322 as being coplanar with the uppermost surface of the insulative material 307. Rather, Gambino shows such other liners having surfaces elevationally beneath the uppermost surface of the insulative material 307. In contrast, Applicant's claim 78 recites that the liner associated with a structure which is not an anti-fuse, and specifically the liner associated with a structure in which a conductive plug extends through an opening in the liner to contact a conductive node (for example, the liner associated with the fragment 104 of Fig. 10, and recited as a second liner in the claim), has the planar surface coplanar with the insulative material 112. Accordingly, claim 78 is not shown or suggested by Gambino. Applicant submits that the recited subject matter of claim 78 is also not shown or suggested by any combination of Gambino with the Examiners other cited references. Applicant therefore requests formal allowance of claim 78 in the Examiner's next action.

Claims 79-84 depend from claim 78, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons for which claim 78 is allowable.

New claims 67-84 are allowable for the reasons discussed above. Applicant therefore requests formal allowance of such claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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